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DORCHESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1950

DORCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER

Year ended 31st December, 1950.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

C. D. Day, M.A., D.P.H. retired August 13th, 1950.

I. B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H. commenced August 14th, 1950.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

N. Rawlins, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

C. F. Allard, D.P.A., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Clerk Miss K. R. Brooks.

Clerk R. J. Blandamer.

Junior Clerk and Pupil Sanitary Inspector .. S. A. W. Brown.

Rodent Operator E. R. Savage.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health Miss S. C. Burgess.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Rural district covers a very large area, encircling the Borough of Dorchester, there are 58 parishes ranging in size from a population of 37 people to a population of 1,866, the total area being 128,592 acres.

The area is mainly agricultural, but there are a few industries, Agricultural Engineering, Pasteurisation Plants, Watercress beds and Brick-works.

In the summer-time its attractive sea coast line and the beauty of its countryside attract many visitors which accounts for the numerous camping grounds in the area.

Its antiquity goes back to Pre-Roman Times and evidence of the Roman occupation still remains.

The climate probably compares favourably with the rest of the whole of England, being neither too dry or too wet, and its summer temperature being nearly as high as any on the South Coast and its winter temperature being above the average.

No major outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred during the year, five cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified, four recovered and one died. Thirteen cases of Dysentery were reported, no deaths occurred.

The shortage of houses, is I consider the major health hazard in the district, only 138 houses have been completed since the War, this further worsened by the low standard of houses generally in the area.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

I. B. LAWRENCE.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (land and internal water)	128,592	acres
Resident Population—Estimated	16,067	
Census 1951	18,062	
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1950	4,809	
Rateable Value	£79,128	
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£325	

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates	16,067
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BIRTHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	131	120	251
Illegitimate	8	7	15
Total	139	127	266

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	4	2	6

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
All causes	91	88	179

DEATHS INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR (INFANT MORTALITY).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	1	3	4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS (NEONATAL MORTALITY).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	0	3	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	0	3	3

Live Birth Rate	16.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.8
Death Rate	10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate	15.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	29.8

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was one death from Meningitis, one from Infantile Paralysis. Three from Influenza and eight from Pneumonia.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	1	2
Tuberculosis (other)	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—

(Continued on page 4)

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES (Continued from page 3).

	Males	Females	Total
Meningitis	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Cancer of lung, bronchus	5	—	5
Cancer of stomach	5	1	6
Cancer of breast	—	—	—
Cancer of uterus	—	3	3
Other Cancers	14	2	16
Anaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	11	18
Coronary disease, angina	8	6	14
High Blood Pressure	—	2	2
Other Heart disease	16	20	36
Other circulatory disease.....	4	3	7
Influenza	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	6	8
Bronchitis	6	4	10
Other disease of respiratory system	2	3	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	16	21
Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	1	—	1
All causes	91	88	179

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table summarises the notifications of the Infectious Diseases made during the year:

Disease	Total cases Notified										Total	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65	*A.U.			
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	9	4	—
Whooping Cough	4	9	11	13	3	—	5	—	—	—	45	—	—
Measles	5	6	7	25	10	—	2	—	—	—	55	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	2	1	—	9	—	8
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I. Paralysis	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	5	5	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	1	13	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	—
Scabies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Pulmonary	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	5	2	2
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Denotes Age Unknown.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1950 the following cases and deaths from tuberculosis were notified —

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	2	5	3	1	1	—	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE.

A fortnightly collection of refuse takes place in the district.

LABORATORY SPECIMENS.

Throat Swabs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Faeces	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Water	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	76
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Blood	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

To call the Ambulance, ring Dorchester 420 for routine work. In an emergency ask exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency and nature of case and full address.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

One full time and five spare time helpers are employed for the Borough and Rural District of Dorchester.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Sec. 47. i.e., removal to suitable premises persons in need of care and attention.

One case was reported but no statutory action was necessary, the case was dealt with by persuasion.

HOUSING.

Council Houses	In process of erection	Completed 1950	Completed since end of War
Temporary			
Permanent—			
Traditional Type	62	28	78
Non-Traditional Type	—	32	60
Converted into Flats	—	—	—
Converted Army Hutments	—	—	95
Total	62	60	233

The housing situation in the district, unfortunately, has never been correctly ascertained as the Hobhouse report was only half completed, nevertheless it can be stated that the position is grim for the following reasons—

1. Many of the house are old, dampness is very prevalent and in many cases the sanitary arrangements are primitive.
2. The housing progress since the War has been very slow although there has been a fillip recently.
3. Owing to the shortage of houses, the Council wisely or otherwise have taken over numerous huts and used them for housing purposes.
4. The percentage of houses which cannot be made fit at reasonable expense is high.
5. There is too great a tendency to try and make fit houses which should be demolished—the labour and materials should be used more economically on houses (Category 4) which have not yet reached the demolition stage—thus preventing them becoming such properties or alternately a license should be granted to build a new house—the difference in cost would be negligible.

All the reasons given above tend to cause a deterioration in the health of the inhabitants.

I believe the time has come when the number of houses allocated to an area should be correlated to the number of houses which have already been built and the percentage of bad property. Just because some authorities have for numerous reasons been slow off the mark, I do not see why the inhabitants should suffer, but I give full marks to the progressive authorities who have built houses in sufficient quantities.

Furthermore, the time has come when the question of building a different type of house should be considered—the high costs and therefore the increased rent is proving a barrier to some deserving cases accepting Council houses especially old people. I see no reason why a part of a house could not be built, planned so that an addition could be made later.

I would prefer to see families temporarily overcrowded in a dry, light ventilated house, than overcrowded in some of their present houses. A private individual would do this, it would certainly prove more economical at present and produce more houses which are sorely needed.

A report was recently submitted to the Council asking for additional help—one of the grounds being to try and sort out these houses, and report in due course, the properties which are considered to be in Category 4. I am pleased to say that the Council have agreed to appoint an additional Sanitary Inspector.

OLD PERSONS.

Four bungalows for old people have been completed during 1950.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

HOUSE INSPECTION.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	74
No. of subsequent visits paid to above houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	135
No. of houses rendered fit after service of informal notices								
(a) Under Public Health Act....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
(b) Under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
No. of houses rendered fit after service of statutory notices								
(a) Under Public Health Act....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) Under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
No. of houses demolished as unfit for human habitation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
No. of houses found to be overcrowded	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
No. of cases of overcrowding abated during year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4

NUISANCES.

Total No. of Nuisances inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	62
Total No. of re-inspections of nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	83
Total No. of nuisances abated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23
Total No. of nuisances not abated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	64
Total No. of nuisances reported as a nuisance but not existent	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9

CLOSETS.

New W.C's.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	122
W.C. Conversions from earth closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	77
New E.C's.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6

MILK SAMPLING.

No. of Milk Samples satisfactory	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
No. of Milk Samples unsatisfactory	Nil
Total No. of samples taken	9

MILK BOTTLES.

No. taken	Nil
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CHURN WASHINGS.

No. of churn washings taken	Nil
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BUILDING BYELAWS.

Total No. of visits made in connection with building byelaws	400
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BUILDING LICENSING.

Total No. of visits made in connection with building licensing	29
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During the year visits and inspections were carried out as shown hereunder.

Water Supplies	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	117
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	520
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Tents, Vans and Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Refuse Collection	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Refuse Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
Miscellaneous Sanitary visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	128
Building Byelaws	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	400
Civil Building Control	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	29
Petroleum Acts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Rights of Way	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Night Soil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Rivers Surveys/Pollution	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Houses inspected under Public Health Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
Visits paid to houses under Public Health Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
Houses inspected under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	47
Visits paid to houses under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	110
Houses inspected with regard to overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Houses re-inspected with regard to overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Verminous houses re-inspected	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous Housing visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	43
Town and Country Planning visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	69
Enquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
Visits re Disinfection	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Visits to slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Visits to Shops and Stalls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Visits to other Meat Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Food preparing Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Restaurants	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Sampling: Milk/Bacteriological	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26
Miscellaneous Food visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

MEAT INSPECTION—GOVERNMENT SLAUGHTERHOUSES YEAR 1950

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
No. Killed	131	382	1	588	32	—
No. inspected	131	382	1	588	32	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	4	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42	96	—	123	3	—
% of No. Inspected affected with dis- eases other than T.B.	32.1%	26.2%	—	20.9%	15.6%	—
T.B. ONLY						
Whole Carcasses condemned	—	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	45	—	—	8	—
% of No. inspected affected with T.B. only	10.7%	12.8%	—	—	25%	—
CARCASSES AFFECTED WITH T.B. and OTHER DISEASES						
	3	33	—	—	1	—
% of No. inspected affected with T.B. and other diseases together....	2.3%	8.6%	—	—	3.1%	—

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED: 5 tons, 6 cwts., 15 lbs.

In addition two visits were made to private slaughterhouses, and 7 cwts. 1 qr. 5 lbs. of meat was condemned.

WATER SUPPLIES.

CHLORINATING OR CHLORAMINATING PLANTS.

Chloraminating Plants. In addition to those at the Pumping Stations at Forston and Maiden Newton belonging to this Council there are 10 other plants in this District as follows:—

Parish	Address	Occupier	Owner	Date Installed	Type
Abbotsbury	Coastguard Cottages	Mr. Donnelly	Occupier	7.12.48	"Belco"
Alton Pancras	Barcombe Farmhouse		J. H. Waterman	49	"Belco"
Buckland Newton			Sturminster R.D.C.		

Parish	Address	Occupier	Owner	Date installed	Type
Charminster	Forston Pumping Stn.		D.R.D.C.	10.3.39	Wallace and Tiernan
Maiden Newton	Pumping Stn.		D.R.D.C.	June, 1949	do.
Melcombe Horsey	Albert Field Springs (pumphouse)		Col. Woodhouse	20.12.49	do.
Minterne Magna	Hurdley Moor Farm	Mr. Crocker	Mr. Crocker	49	"Belco"
Piddletrenthide	Spring nr. Rockpit Dairy		Mr. H. M. J. Barnard Hankey	15.1.49	"Belco"
Toller Porcorum	Higher Kingcombe		Mr. C. A. Crocker	20.4.49	"Belco"
Tolpuddle	T.U.C. Cottages		T.U.C. Memorial Trust	11.11.49	"Belco"
West Knighton	Empool Waterworks		Weymouth Water- works Co.		
Winterborne Monkton	Pumping Station		W. R. Elworthy		"Bell"

WATER SAMPLING.

BACTERIOLOGICAL

No. of water samples satisfactory	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
No. of water samples unsatisfactory	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
No. of water samples suspicious	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Total No. of samples taken	....	....	....	....	....	....	76
Total No. of sources of supply	48
CHEMICAL	Nil

FOOD INSPECTION.

No. of visits	18
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CONDEMNED

Tinned foodstuffs—1 cwt. 2qrs. 8 lbs. 13 ozs.
Other foodstuffs—7 cwts. 22 lbs.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

No. of visits to private premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	758
No. of visits to business premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
No. of other visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	47
Total	....	....	....	....	....	....	830

Types of infestation found:—

Major	....	....	....	....	....	....	51
Minor secondary	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Minor	....	....	....	....	....	....	63

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. on register	No. of inspections	No. of Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced	43	Nil	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies			
(a) Subject to Local Authori- ties Order	80	10	—
(iii) Other premises under Act (ex- cluding outworkers Premises	20	13	—
	143	23	—

Cases in which defects were found 1

OUTWORKERS.

Net makers	181
Glove Manufacturers	127
Carpet maker	1
Toilet Brush Manufacturer	1
Handknitting...	1
Tailor	1
Total	312

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